THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir. There is no telephone facility in Harara, Pinakot, Tolyon, Machhor, Bor and Bhonkhal villages of Talla Salt in Almora District of Uttaranchal.

(b) Telephone facility in these villages could not be provided as these villages are remotely located. Telephone facility in these villages is planned to be provided by 2002.

(c) Steps such as opening of new exchanges, laying of underground cable and optical fibre cable and installation of Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) have been planned for the current year. Satellite-based telephones for remote villages which can not be covered by terrestrial technologies have also been planned.

Mobile Telephone Service at District Headquarters of Orissa

3094. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the District Headquarters of Orissa have not been covered by mobile telephone network;

(b) if so, by when this is likely to be achieved; and

(c) the organisation/company which is engaged to provide this facility in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Licences to provide Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) in Orissa Telecom Circle were granted two private operators namely, M/s Reliance Telecom (P) Limited and M/s Koshika Telecom Pvt. Limited which effective dates 12.12.1995 in both cases. Subsequently, licence was also granted to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) on 29.02.2000. However, licence of M/s Koshika Telecom was terminated on 22.05.1999 due to non-payment of licence fee dues. So far M/s Reliance have covered seven District Headquarters/towns with CMTS in Orissa Telecom circle; BSNL have not started their services in Orissa Telecom Circle as yet.

The terms and conditions of the Licences, *inter-alia*, provide that at least 10 per cent of the District Headquarters will be covered in the first year and 50 per cent of the District Headquarters will be covered within three years of effective date of licence. The licensees have also been permitted to cover any other town in a District in lieu of the District Headquarters. The choice of District Headquarters/towns to be covered and further expansion beyond 50 per cent District Headquarters/towns lies with the licensee companies depending on their business decision. For non-coverage of 50 per cent of District Headquarters within a period of three years, penalty is imposed on the Licensee Company. M/s Reliance Telecom have been levied such penalty for non-coverage of 50 per cent of District Headquarters within a period of three years of effective date of licence.

Members of TAC nominated for Bihar

†3095. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the separate details of the members nominated at State and district level in Telecom Advisory Committee in Bihar alongwith their names and addresses; and

(b) the criterion fixed for their nomination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Carry forward of unutilised calls

3096. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tariff in respect of marginal subscribers of telephone has been increased;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.